



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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SELAGINELLA SELAGINOIDES **LOW SPIKE-MOSS**

Low Spike-moss is a low, moss-like perennial with branched, prostrate to ascending stems. The thin, narrowly lance shaped leaves are 1-3 mm long, are spirally arranged on the stem, and have sparsely spine-toothed margins. The upper leaves of fertile stems are larger, more broadly lance-shaped, and bear in their axils 1 to a few spores that have a bumpy surface and are ca. 0.5 mm across. Mature sporophylls in late July.

Other species of *SELAGINELLA* occur in dry habitats and have thicker, bristle-tipped leaves. Species of *LYCOPodium* have thicker leaves without spine-like teeth on the margins. A hand lens is needed for positive identification.